

INTERNAL USE ONLY

12 November 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD


SUBJECT: Contact with Les Gelb, New York Times,
11 November 1976

1. About 5:00 P.M. on 11 November I received a phone call at my office extension from Les Gelb of the New York Times. I had never spoken with Gelb before. My sole encounter with him was January 1976 at a meeting on China in New York at the Council on Foreign Relations. Gelb, however, referred to me by my first name with a certain accepted familiarity.

2. Gelb said he had a message from a Times correspondent overseas to the effect that the Russians were waving the latest Chinese message to Moscow saying it meant reconciliation. Gelb said he was skeptical and was thinking of writing his own piece on the subject. He asked for my views. I gave him a quick FBIS type analysis of Chinese public statements on the issue of improving state-to-state relations. I expressed the view that although an improvement in relations was a distinct possibility, the evidence was not available to date. I also told him the Russians were mischievous on this score.

3. Gelb said he detected a difference between policy makers of State who felt that there was an amelioration in the making and analysts who did not see the evidence.

4. I asked Gelb not to quote me in any context. He said emphatically he would not refer to me by name nor would he mention anything about intelligence sources. He then said somewhat testily "after all you were only commenting on public information and there shouldn't be anything secret about that."


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